

NATIONAL

New Delhi

All eight members of Lokpal take oath of office

- All eight members of the Lokpal were administered the oath of office. The Chairperson of the anti corruption ombudsman Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose administered the oath of office to them. Besides Chairperson, the President Ram Nath Kovind had appointed four Judicial members and four Non-Judicial members as Lokpal.
- **Judicial members** – Former Chief Justices - Dilip B. Bhosale, Pradip Kumar Mohanty, and Abhilasha Kumari and sitting Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ajay Kumar Tripathi
- **Non-Judicial members** - Former first woman Chief of Sashastra Seema Bal Archana Ramasundaram, ex-Maharashtra Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar Jain, former IRS officer Mahender Singh and ex-IAS officer Indrajeet Prasad Gautam.

UGC prohibits imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture. The decision was taken by the higher education regulator at its last meeting on the ground that a degree programme in agriculture is technical in nature as it requires practicals or laboratory courses.

INTERNATIONAL

5.4 magnitude earthquake strikes off Japan

- In Japan, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck off Miyazaki Prefecture, on the southeast coast of Kyushu Island.

Syria asks UN Security Council to hold meeting on Golan Heights

- Syria has asked the United Nations Security Council to hold an urgent meeting on the US decision to recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani re-elected with over 60% of votes

- Comoros President Azali Assoumani was re-elected according to results published by the electoral commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago. The Comoros is a volcanic archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the warm Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel.

European Parliament adopts controversial copyright reforms

- European Parliament adopted controversial copyright reforms championed by news publishers and the media business. However, tech giants including google have opposed it. Under the reform, European law for the first time would hold platforms legally responsible for enforcing copyright, requiring them to check everything that their users post to prevent infringement.

India, Bangladesh to start cruise service

- India and Bangladesh will start a cruise service that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to Dhaka. Addressing a conference on Multipolarism in Asia: Issues and Challenges in New Delhi, joint secretary of External Affairs Ministry, Vikram Doraiswami said, the move aims to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Nepal Investment Summit

- The Government of Nepal is organizing "Nepal Investment Summit 2019" on March 29 -30 in Kathmandu. This summit will unveil potential opportunities for investment in various sectors in Nepal including

Hydropower, Tourism, Infrastructure, Industry, Transport, Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology.

India-Croatia Economic Forum

- President Ram Nath Kovind will participate in the India-Croatia Economic Forum meeting in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

MoU between India and Croatia

- India and Croatia signed key agreements in the fields of sports, tourism and also Establishment of the Hindi and Sanskrit Chair at University of Zagreb.

DEFENCE

India successfully tests anti-satellite missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test, Mission Shakti from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- Mission Shakti aimed at strengthening India's overall security.

SPORTS

Asian Airgun Championship

- In Shooting, Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have bagged a Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship in Taipei.

Savita Punia to lead Indian women's hockey team in Malaysia tour

- Goalkeeper Savita will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for the five-match series against Malaysia.

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